

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW JOHN MEADE, GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK'S 2021 MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Matthew John Meade, who will be recognized as the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's 2021 Man of the Year at their Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event on Friday, September 24, 2021.

Matthew was born to Jack and Staton (Monk) Meade in Luzerne County and raised in Jenkins Township, Pennsylvania. He attended and graduated from Pittston Area High School, and he continued his education at Penn State University, Marywood University, Wilkes University, and King's College.

Matthew is actively involved in his community. He served as the president of the Friendly Sons in 2020. He was instrumental in guiding the organization during COVID-19 and innovating new ways to foster connection and maintain the group's hallmark conviviality despite the challenges of the pandemic. Matthew is also a member of the Knights of Columbus John F. Kennedy Council 372 and a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus Assembly 948. He is currently the president of the Pittston Knights Home Association.

Matthew has dedicated his professional career and volunteer efforts to educating children and encouraging their athletic endeavors. Since 2012, he has been employed by the Luzerne Intermediate Unit, Greater Nanticoke Area, and Northwest Area, and he has coached young people in track and field, football, golf, and basketball. Matthew also coached in the Avoca Jolly Boys Basketball League.

I am honored to join with the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in recognizing Matthew as the 2021 Man of the Year. He has been a longtime champion of local causes and organizations, and he has a bright future ahead of him. May he continue to answer the call to serve his community.

HONORING LARRY DEAN MORSE II

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Dean Morse II of Merced, California. Mr. Morse passed away on September 14th and lived a life of public service through his work as the 30th District Attorney of Merced County.

Mr. Morse was born on March 20, 1957 to Larry Morse, Sr. and Saranne Morse and grew up in Lancaster, California. After graduating

high school, Mr. Morse attended the University of Arkansas where he majored in journalism and wrote for the school paper, which in 1979 landed him a job as a reporter for the Arkansas Democrat. While in Little Rock, Mr. Morse met Cindy Robertson, who he would later go on to marry.

In 1981, Mr. Morse moved to Washington, D.C. to work as a Press Secretary and Legislative Aide to Congressman Bob Whittaker, beginning his career in politics and public service. After a couple of years in Washington, Mr. Morse decided to follow in his father's footsteps and moved to Sacramento to attend the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, which he attended with his wife Cindy. While in law school, he continued his public service, working as the Communications Director for the Senate Democratic Caucus and after earning his J.D., as Legislative Director for State senator Milton Marks.

Mr. Morse began his work as a trial attorney in 1993 when he moved to Merced to work as a member of the Merced County District Attorney's office, where he quickly rose through the ranks and in 1998 was appointed as the Chief Deputy District Attorney. In 2006, Mr. Morse was elected as the Merced County District attorney.

Mr. Morse's time as District Attorney was his biggest source of professional pride. During his tenure, he personally prosecuted the most cases out of his counterparts in many counties, including almost 20 murder cases. Additionally, he started the Violence Interruption and Prevention and Emergency Response (VIPER) program to marshal law enforcement intelligence resources to provide better information to officers on patrols and in investigations. After serving as the Merced County DA, Mr. Morse continued his public service as the Legislative Director for the California District Attorneys Association.

As one who was always civically engaged, Mr. Morse was a member of Merced Elks Lodge 1240, Los Banos Sportsman's Association, E Clampus Vitus, and founding member of the Merced Boys and Girls Club. Most notably, he played a vital role on the committee that brought a University of California campus to Merced.

Mr. Morse loved spending time with his family and was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed traveling with his wife of 35 years Cindy and sons Dylan, Ethan, and Ryan, instilling "The Golden Rule" and a love of reading music. After Ethan's tragic death, he was comforted having his granddaughter Ava along with family and friends over to his house, which was a sanctuary to him and his family.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring a skilled prosecutor, public servant, family man, and leader whose contributions to the greater Merced community and State of California will be remembered for generations. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor him as family, friends, and community leaders gather to celebrate the life of a man who made Merced County a better place.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF KIDSMATTER, NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Naperville Illinois KidsMatter Organization.

Since 2001, KidsMatter has served to develop and empower young people of all races, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds. Their work has been critical to understanding how a child's upbringing and environment can affect their development.

More importantly, they recognize that the obstacles faced by young adults do not determine their future. Through mental health services, tutoring and leadership academies, and many other services, KidsMatter is leading our community's children to brighter futures ahead.

In addition to serving young adults, KidsMatter provides critical resources to families and parents. This influential organization is building a healthy and resilient new generation, and I look forward to the work they will continue doing in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring KidsMatter for their exemplary service to the people of Naperville, Illinois and the surrounding area, and to congratulate them on their 20th Anniversary.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HARRY DAVID JANSOHN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness but great respect that I take this time to remember Harry David Jansohn of Virginia Beach.

Harry "Dave" passed away peacefully in his sleep on September 18, 2021 at the age of 64 years. Harry was born in Washington, D.C. on May 19, 1957 and raised in Annandale, Virginia by his parents, Harry and Janice Jansohn, beside his two sisters, Gloria and Karen and his brother, Matthew. Dave graduated from WT Woodson high school where he was an honor student and also a first chair trumpet player in his school's orchestra.

In addition to his parents and siblings, Dave is survived by his wife, Deana and two sons, Kurt and Connor. Dave was retired from his job at NOAA as a Port Engineer in Norfolk, VA which was a job he loved. He was well thought of and respected by his coworkers at NOAA. His NOAA work colleagues visited him on a regular basis the last 10 years while he was living in nursing homes. They loved bringing him his favorite treats, beer and chocolate

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

chip cookies. His childhood friends, Tim and Vince Laria and college friend, Lee Daniels were also frequent visitors over the years which made Dave very happy. His friend Jesse Bacon was also someone who was a big supporter of Dave when he became ill.

Dave was previously employed by the Maritime Administration as a Marine Surveyor which was also a job he loved. Dave's true passion was deep sea fishing out of Oregon Inlet and Hatteras, NC. He was known for his ability to always find the Tuna and Marlin on fishing trips. After high school and through college he worked as a mate on charter boats there. He attended Virginia Tech, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Dave also earned the Professional Engineer designation by passing the exam on his first try. During his High School years he achieved the highest honor in scouting, Eagle Scout, which he was very proud of.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to rise with me in memory of Mr. Harry David "Dave" Jansohn and in thanking the Jansohn family for his incredible sacrifices, devotion, and service to our Nation; words cannot express our gratitude.

KIMBERLY SEREFF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kimberly Sereff of the American Federation of Government Employees on her retirement.

For thirty years, Kimberly has tirelessly served the Federal government within multiple agencies and across a variety of positions. Kimberly started her public service career as a Federal Investigator with the Office of Personal Management. Three years later, she took a position conducting compliance investigations for the U.S. Department of Labor. After eight years of service, she moved to the U.S. Department of Housing where she was recognized with the Award of Excellence presented by the Secretary of HUD for her assistance during Hurricane Katrina disaster relief efforts in 2006. Her hard work and dedication to public service is tremendous.

In addition to her service to the Federal government, Kimberly has been very active with the Big Brothers, Big Sisters organization. In 2011 and 2012 she was awarded by the organization for her volunteer and mentoring efforts. I have had the opportunity to meet with Kimberly on several occasions and I have been inspired by her work ethic and contributions to our community.

I wish Kimberly all the best in retirement and send gratitude for her service to our community, the State of Colorado, and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I missed Roll Call 265 on September 21, 2021. Had I been present, my vote would have been Yea.

CONGRATULATING OCEAN OF LOVE ON THEIR 23RD ANNUAL BILLBOARD RADIOTHON

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ocean of Love on their 23rd Annual Billboard Radiothon. As September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month, it is imperative that we rededicate ourselves to finding a cure for childhood cancers that impact thousands of families across my district.

During this three day event, Ocean of Love for Children with Cancer has a goal of raising \$109,000 so they can continue their mission of providing excellent support to families facing unimaginable challenges.

Founded in 1988, Ocean of Love has helped over 500 families by providing varying levels of support including grocery gift cards, household expense assistance, scholarships, and caretaker support. Ocean of Love is there to share in the celebration of winning the battle and provides invaluable support for families facing life's hardest tragedy—the loss of a child. Through their bereavement group both for parents and siblings, Ocean of Love is there to stand shoulder to shoulder with Ocean County families.

I commit to them and to families across my district that I will continue supporting efforts to increase research into childhood disease and continue fighting for environmental protections to protect children's health for generations to come. I would like to commend Ocean of Love for their tireless efforts on behalf of these families and wish them all the best with their Radiothon. Thank you for being there to let the families here in Ocean County know that they will never be in this fight alone.

RECOGNIZING JONATHON CLARK

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jonathon Clark, an outstanding resident and community advocate in Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

Jonathon Clark was known for his unwavering commitment to helping others in need and ministering to the spiritual needs of those who knew him. In 2019, Mr. Clark accepted his call to preach and did so many times from the pulpit at City Covenant Church in Detroit, where he quickly became a fixture in church leadership. From this place of faith, Mr. Clark demonstrated by example what a man should be. Whether tending to his beautiful family with whom he was gifted upon his marriage to Dawn Wilson-Clark, cooking gourmet meals at home or for a hundred at church, or giving his talents to a number of community works, he was a man who was always aware of the great responsibility we each hold to be good towards one another and of his role in the bigger role in God's plan.

Jonathon was beloved by community members of all ages. He was a caring mentor to

young people and he never shied away from offering a helping hand. Jonathon always followed through on any task he set his mind to. Young people loved him because of his direct honesty and unmasked concern for them. He served in many roles in various community-based organizations, including Chair of the Board for 482forward, board member of The Brightmoor Alliance, Brightmoor Soup, and he was the coordinator for summer camp at City Covenant, where he founded Talking is Teaching, an early children's literacy program, and he served as assistant director of the work experience program at Loyola High School. Jonathon's work in the community has touched the lives of many. In his advocacy on behalf of his neighbors in the Brightmoor community of Detroit, he was fearless in standing up for his community.

Please join me in recognizing Jonathon Clark's outstanding contributions to the communities of Detroit and Michigan's 13th Congressional District, as we honor his memory.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHANNY ROSARIO PICHARDO

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Marine Sergeant Johnny Rosario Pichardo, a daughter of Lawrence, Massachusetts. She and twelve other brave American servicemembers tragically lost their lives on Thursday, August 26th at the Abbey Gate of the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Sergeant Rosario Pichardo will be remembered as a hero for her valiant service and commitment to protecting the freedoms and values that all Americans hold dear. This tragic loss serves as a reminder that when our troops bravely volunteer to serve, both they and their loved ones sacrifice more than we can ever imagine. My heart goes out to Sergeant Rosario Pichardo's family and friends during this difficult time.

Sergeant Rosario Pichardo's legacy lives on through the many people who carry her memory forward. In particular, the residents of Lawrence, especially those who knew her well, will remember her passion for service and her commitment to family.

I am grateful for heroes like Sergeant Johnny Rosario Pichardo who volunteer to risk everything to make the United States and the world a better place and are prepared to give what President Lincoln called the "last full measure of their devotion." We are incredibly fortunate that such brave men and women are among us.

Sergeant Johnny Rosario Pichardo and her fellow servicemembers represented the very best our country has to offer. They will never be forgotten.

EQUAL ACCESS TO THE RIGHT NUTRITION FOR MILITARY FAMILIES ACT (EARN ACT)

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today, my colleague, Mr. FORTENBERRY of Nebraska, and I will introduce the bipartisan Equal Access to the Right Nutrition Act for Military Families—better known as the EARN Act.

The food insecurity rate among active-duty military families is 14 percent higher than the national average of 10.5 percent.

This affects service members from all ranks, especially junior enlisted as well as service members of color.

The EARN Act is an innovative solution to this problem that will increase military family access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—commonly known as Foods Stamps or SNAP.

It removes variability in state administered SNAP programs by establishing a federally administered SNAP benefit for military families with streamlined national eligibility requirements for military households.

It encourages participation in SNAP by requiring the U.S. Department of Defense to notify qualifying military families of their eligibility and automatically enroll families in the program unless they decide to opt out.

Finally, it eases the transition back to civilian life by establishing a transitional, temporary SNAP benefit for those leaving service.

When a person makes the commitment and sacrifice to serve our country in the military, we must honor this by ensuring that their basic needs are met.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF 9/11 ARTICLE BY JAMES PATTERSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize this article by James Patterson that originally appeared in The Montgomery Advertiser, September 9, 2016:

[From the Montgomery Advertiser, September 9, 2016]

ALABAMIAN RECALLS SEPT. 11, 2001

(By Jim Patterson, Alabama Voices)

Sept. 11, 2001, began like many busy mornings for me. I was in my Washington office and ready to leave for an appointment with a colleague near Georgetown University. Later, I had a meeting on Capitol Hill and after that, I planned to take Amtrak to Penn Station in New York.

Moments before I left the office, a radio news presenter said a plane had hit the World Trade Center in New York. This news astonished me! I stopped to hear more. While I waited for news, I reasoned a small aircraft with an amateur pilot could have hit one of the Twin Towers.

As a longtime traveler to New York, colleagues had told me stories of pilots in small

planes that had hit tall apartment buildings. This happens in New York. I proceeded to leave for my appointment.

The radio presenter then said a commercial jet had flown into the World Trade Center. This boggled my mind as I knew jets did not fly so low as to hit the World Trade Center. It had to be a hoax, I assumed.

When the radio presenter said the image was on the network news, I had to see it for myself. I was stunned to see billowing black smoke from the North Tower. An incredible pilot error, I thought. I thought perhaps the pilot died in the cockpit and lost control of the airliner causing it to crash into the tower. Still, I had doubts as I stood speechless watching the horrible images.

Within a few minutes, I witnessed a second airliner crash in the South Tower. It was a day of unspeakable events and lost friends. Shortly after 9:30 that morning, the windows in my office, situated near the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, rattled. I looked out the window and saw black smoke billowing in the distance from Virginia. Nearly 200 people died at the Pentagon that morning.

President George W. Bush was in Florida that morning with Vice President Dick Cheney in the White House. Members of Congress were evacuated to safety. Cheney decided to stay in The White House and issued military orders to shoot down any plane out of its flight path. Washington DC was a war zone!

Federal employees were ordered home. Military and National Guard troops quickly appeared to safeguard property and citizens. In a short time, the highways leaving Washington DC became clogged with cars. Many vehicles ran out of gas. Stranded motorists walked away from their cars. Washington's Metrorail was closed in several directions. Washington's mayor ordered businesses closed and residents to stay indoors.

Being a brave Alabama sort, I decided to go for a walk down a deserted Pennsylvania Avenue at around 10:30 a.m. I saw no cars and no people. A military vehicle with troops passed me by. Relieved they did not arrest me, I awkwardly waved at them. Two troops awkwardly waved in response.

In an episode of the 1960s TV program The Twilight Zone called "Time Enough at Last" a middle-aged bank teller longs for a life where he can read without the distraction of work. When he accidentally gets locked overnight in a bank vault and exits the next morning to find his town destroyed by terrorists, he is alone in the world.

As I disobeyed U.S. government orders to stay inside my office, I casually walked down a deserted Pennsylvania Avenue. I felt I was alone in the world. Perhaps this was the last walk I would ever make if more terrorism by commercial airliner took me away.

I stopped at a neighborhood restaurant to see a sign on the door. "Closed. Go home," it read. I walked to a barbershop and saw men inside fearful to wave back at me.

I saw fear on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. I saw confusion. I wondered when it would be over. Fifteen years on, the threat of terrorism is not over. It is, sadly, a fact of life for all Americans everywhere in the world.

James Patterson, a former U.S. diplomat, is a writer and speaker based in Washington, D.C., and a life member of the Auburn University Alumni Association.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing this article by James Patterson.

RECOGNIZING P.J. MELVIN, RECIPIENT OF THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK'S 2021 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor P.J. Melvin, who will receive the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's 2021 Achievement Award at their Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event on Friday, September 24, 2021.

P.J. was born in Pittston, Pennsylvania. A lifetime resident of the area, he has lived in the family homestead since he was born. In 1964, P.J. graduated from Pittston High School, earning the title of Outstanding Senior Boy. He continued his education at King's College, graduating with degrees in sociology and English education. While at King's, he played on the football team and could be found on stage acting in Shakespearean plays.

After graduating from King's, P.J. began his career as an educator at St. Cecilia's Junior High School in Exeter, Pennsylvania. He then joined the teaching staff at the Wyoming Area School District where he held several educational positions during his tenure.

P.J. is actively involved in many community organizations and he has dedicated his time to serve in leadership roles. He is a former president of the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus John F. Kennedy Council No. 372 where he previously held the position of Grand Knight.

P.J. is known for his love of Pittston, and his presence has been a mainstay in the community for generations. Always seeing the potential of his beloved hometown, he served his community and fellow citizens as a Pittston City councilman. He was instrumental in starting the Pittston Tomato Festival, an event that attracts thousands of visitors downtown annually, and he was part of the effort to bring the statue of President John F. Kennedy to Kennedy Boulevard in the city. In 2019, P.J. was unanimously chosen by the Parade Committee to serve as Grand Marshal for the Pittston St. Patrick's Day Parade.

I am honored to join with the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in recognizing P.J. as the recipient of the 2021 Achievement Award. I admire P.J.'s lifetime of dedication to the Greater Pittston area, and I wish him all the best.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF SHULTS AUTO GROUP IN JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of Shults Auto Group in Jamestown, New York, and congratulate the Shults Family for reaching this milestone.

Shults Auto Group is the largest auto group in the Southern Tier. They have six dealerships carrying twelve different makes of vehicles and three pre-owned resale centers. The dealerships are located in Jamestown, Lake-wood, Olean, and Dunkirk, New York and in Warren, Pennsylvania and they employ over three hundred people.

Shults Auto Group has an extensive history in the City of Jamestown. In 1970, Edmond R. Shults and Donald A. Gage bought controlling interest in, what was, Berglund Chevrolet. In 1971, Mr. Shults purchased Mr. Gage's interest and the dealership became Ed Shults Chevrolet, Inc. In 1981, brothers Edmond R. Shults, Jr. and Tim M. Shults purchased Ed Shults Chevrolet, Inc., and Shults Auto Group has continued to grow.

Community is extremely important to the Shults Family and Shults Auto Group employees. They have taken a vested interest in community events, infrastructure, and volunteerism. Shults Auto Group's philanthropic interests include youth sports, education, the National Comedy Center, Northwest Arena, and more. They believe in giving back to support their community.

The customer experience is also very important, and the center of their mission, at Shults Auto Group. Millions of dollars have been invested using local contractors and supplies over the years to enhance facilities, grow the company, and give their customers the greatest experience.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of Shults Auto Group in Jamestown, New York. Congratulations on this tremendous milestone.

HONORING ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Ann Catholic Church in Warsaw, Missouri, which has provided a place for the Catholic community in the town to gather and worship for over 75 years. On March 3, 1946, St. Ann's was dedicated by Bishop O'Hara from the Diocese of Kansas City, and the first mass was performed by Fr. Urban Landoll from the Society of the Precious Blood.

The original church, known as the "sheep shed", was a small building for a small parish, but since then, the parish has flourished and built larger facilities, including a parish hall which was finished in 1984, to accommodate the increased growth of their church family.

The parish and their new Pastor, Fr. Ben Nwosu, welcome everyone from the community to join in mass and celebrate the Lord.

The Church will have their anniversary celebration on Sunday, September 26th.

Congratulations to St. Ann's Church for contributing to the Warsaw area for 75 years. May the Lord continue to bless them as they enrich the Warsaw community for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING JALEEN ROBERTS ON RECEIVING SILVER MEDALS IN THE TOKYO PARALYMPIC GAMES

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise to congratulate Jaleen Roberts on earning two silver medals at this year's Tokyo Paralympic Games.

Jaleen Roberts attended Kent-Meridian High School where she competed in the ambulatory races at the Washington State track meet. Born with cerebral palsy, Jaleen trained and excelled in sports such as soccer, wrestling, and gymnastics.

As a result of her perseverance and athleticism, she was named to the U.S. 2020 Paralympics Track and Field National Team. In both her events, the long jump and 100-meter dash, Jaleen earned silver medals and set new U.S. records. Her accomplishments are a testament to her hard work, commitment, and intense training she completed to arrive in Tokyo.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Jaleen's incredible representation of our country, our state, and Washington's Ninth Congressional District on the world stage.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TAYLOE MURPHY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness but great respect that I take this time to remember one of my constituents and a special Virginian, The Honorable W. Tayloe Murphy of Westmoreland County. Tayloe Murphy passed away on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at the age of 88.

A statesman and conservationist, Tayloe will long be remembered for his service to the Commonwealth and the Northern Neck. Tayloe represented the 99th District as a member of the Virginia General Assembly from 1982 to 2000. As Delegate, Murphy's legislative accomplishments include numerous efforts championing a healthy Chesapeake Bay, including passage of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act in 1986. Appointed by then-Governor MARK WARNER, Mr. Murphy served as Secretary of Natural Resources, where he continued to advance measures protecting the Bay and preserving the Commonwealth's natural resources for future generations.

In addition to a life of public service, he also dedicated his time to improving the community in any way he could. Tayloe sat on multiple community boards. Most notably, he spent fifty-five years serving community banks in a variety of roles, including Vice Chairman with Atlantic Union Bankshares Corporation. Preceded in death by his wife Helen of 63 years, the Murphy's were active in the Episcopal Churches of Couple Parish and greatly contributed to historical preservation and education at Francis Lightfoot Lee's Menokin and Westmoreland State Park.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Tayloe Murphy, a true Virginia Gentleman. On behalf of America's First District, we say thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAKE D. MOORE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 272.

HONORING THE GLADYS PORTER ZOO

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work and lasting impact of the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, Texas as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Since its opening in 1971, the Gladys Porter Zoo has served as a pillar of the community, committed to the preservation of nature through research, conservation, and education.

The founder of the zoo, Gladys Porter, was an active philanthropist responsible for administering the funds established by her father's foundation, the Earl C. Sams Foundation. In the 1960s, Gladys and her husband Dean enjoyed traveling the world. Their love of traveling led to a passion and appreciation for nature and wildlife. As the vision for a zoo in the Rio Grande Valley came to fruition, Gladys and members of the Sams Foundation planned the project. Mrs. Porter was highly involved in the process of the zoo's planning, construction, stocking, and equipping. Upon the Gladys Porter Zoo's completion, it was given to the City of Brownsville by the Sams Foundation.

The opening of the zoo was met with critical acclaim. In 1972, the zoo published its first newsletter entitled the 'Zoo News'. The newsletter is still circulated as a quarterly publication and provides zoo members updates on the animals. In light of the energy crisis in 1974, the zoo launched the "Adopt-an-Animal" program. This program is still widely popular today and encourages school groups, families, and individuals to "adopt" an animal, and financially support it for a year. In 1978, the zoo expanded its community education efforts by starting summer-study programs. These programs are focused on providing students with a hands-on learning experience through face-to-face engagement with the animals, indoor overnight camping, night tours of the zoo, and internship opportunities. The program has since grown in enrollment and is now offered to all youth grades K-12 in the spring, summer, and fall. These examples exemplify the zoo's continued commitment to public service and community engagement.

In addition to the zoo's involvement with the community, the Gladys Porter Zoo has remarkably carried out its conservation mission by contributing to various projects focused on preserving endangered species. Joint ventures

between the zoo staff and Mexican authorities in the conservation efforts of the rare Coahuilan box turtle and Atlantic Ridley sea turtle led to recognition from both the United States and Mexican government. The zoo has also contributed to preservation efforts of endangered and threatened species including, the Western lowland gorillas, Philippine crocodiles, and Rhino hornbills. Over the years, the Gladys Porter Zoo has contributed funds to projects that specifically focus on animals in need of attention. These contributions include funding to Dr. Edward Louis, Jr. in support of his work with Galapagos tortoises, and the International Iguana Foundation, which actively works to conserve iguanas and their habitats.

Madam Speaker, the Gladys Porter Zoo is a cultural staple for the Rio Grande Valley, while also serving the world of wildlife preservation, zoology, research, and education in countless ways. For 50 years, the Gladys Porter Zoo has proven to be a world-class zoological and botanical park through its exceptional work in wildlife preservation, research, education, and the community. I congratulate them on reaching this 50-year milestone; and for their continued efforts to support and educate the South Texas community on the need for conservation and preservation of our wildlife and planet.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, my amendment directs the Army Corps of Engineers to provide uniform guidance and to strengthen enforcement of laws that are already on the books to ensure that federal construction projects, particularly on our military bases, are completed with the highest quality workmanship.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO)—the federal government's "watchdog" agency—recently completed an investigative report, mandated by an amendment I authored as part of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), that found inconsistencies with implementation of the Corps mechanisms for compliance with important worker protection laws. Today's amendment addresses those problems and instructs the Corps' to fully comply with relevant federal laws and regulations for: building quality facilities—labs, hangars, housing, and workspaces—for our military men and women; providing an honest wage for construction workers; and providing the best investment for the taxpayer.

For years, we have witnessed unscrupulous contractors win construction bids for critical federal work, only to have those important projects mismanaged, understaffed, delayed, left unfinished, and in some cases, rebid—then properly redone by high-skilled tradesmen and women who should have gotten the job in the first place.

There is wide-spread concern that irresponsible contractors and subcontractors hire unqualified or underqualified workers and put them in high-skill jobs for which they lack the

needed training and expertise—a practice known as misclassification.

There are two different types of misclassification: craft misclassification and independent contractor misclassification. Craft misclassification occurs when dishonest contractors misclassify high-skilled workers as general laborers or lower wage classifications in order to avoid paying the higher prevailing wage rate applicable to the high-skilled work actually performed. Independent contractor misclassification occurs when contractors misclassify employees as independent contractors to avoid paying prevailing wages thereby reducing labor costs and avoiding state and federal taxes.

These practices deny workers of their rights to critical benefits and protections, including prevailing wages, worker's compensation and unemployment insurance, and communities suffer because misclassification results in lower tax revenues for federal, state, and local governments.

Additionally, the end product is often compromised by shoddy workmanship which can lead to do-overs and substantial cost overruns.

Congress has passed laws to prevent such problems and punish the offenders. The Davis-Bacon Act is critical in this effort as it requires contractors working on certain federally funded construction projects to pay their workers a prevailing wage to ensure that our federal projects are completed by skilled workers who have been properly trained, classified and paid according to their expertise and locality. The Act stands as a check and balance designed to protect employees from low-wage, low-bidding contractors who look to do the job on the cheap hurting the workers and the client, i.e. the federal taxpayer.

When it comes to domestic construction projects, the Army Corps of Engineers, procures more than most divisions of the Department of Defense. According to the GAO, in 2019, the Corps obligated over \$11 billion for domestic construction contracts.

Each federal agency is primarily responsible for enforcing the Davis-Bacon protections at its construction worksites. The Army Corps has a lot of construction projects and federal construction monies to properly oversee.

Unfortunately, federal construction projects in my district, including Army Corps projects at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst—have fallen short in oversight and compliance and have run into trouble with unqualified, subpar bidders who avoid hiring needed skilled workers. We have seen cases of sophisticated work—HVAC, plumbing and sheet metal—needing to be ripped up and redone after the irresponsible bidders failed to properly do the work.

To examine this problem and find lasting solutions, in 2019, Congress enacted my amendment to the 2020 NDAA directing the GAO to study the contracting practices of the Corps with a focus on how the Corps monitors and enforces the Davis-Bacon Act.

The GAO conducted its audit from May 2020 to March 2021 examining Corps guidance, relevant documents about the Davis-Bacon Act, Department of Labor guidance and other relevant laws and regulations. They conducted "semistructured interviews" in four Army Corps district offices—Louisville, New Orleans, New York and Walla Walla—based on the district's activities and representing

"various geographical areas in the U.S. and a mixture of volume and type of construction contracts (e.g. military and civil projects)".

They interviewed Corps headquarters officials, DOL officials and four external groups including two labor unions and two trade associations.

The GAO said that "monitoring, including payroll reviews and on-site inspections, are key to ensuring that the Corps enforces contractor's compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act".

But the report also described implementation inconsistencies across the various districts that can easily lead to gaps in compliance with Davis-Bacon.

The GAO concluded that aspects of the reviews and on-site inspections "may not be sufficient." They found that "Corps documents lack information" and said that "In the absence of directions to consistently document on-the-ground conditions, like the number of employees on site" district officials "may not be fully using on-site inspection to ensure contractors' compliance with the Act."

GAO's final recommendations to Army Corps were that Corps headquarters provide clarifying information on how to conduct payroll reviews and document on-site inspections to ensure the proper monitoring of the number of workers and work performed.

In essence, the GAO found that the Army Corps needs to do a better job in complying with and enforcing Davis-Bacon protections on Corps' projects.

My amendment instructs the Army Corps to provide each of its districts with the guidance it needs to enforce Davis-Bacon. It also directs the Corps to investigate worker complaints and third-party complaints within 30 days of filings and reaffirms transparency and disclosure requirements for certified payroll reports.

With better compliance and more transparency, we will see better workmanship, and a greater return for the taxpayer.

RECOGNIZING PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA MODI'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our global partners, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, who is in Washington, D.C. this week for the Quad-rilateral Security Dialogue, also known as the Quad Summit, a strategic conversation between the United States, India, Japan, and Australia.

America and India have a strong and valuable partnership, which has allowed both nations to flourish. Welcoming the wide range of collaborative activities undertaken to improve their citizens' lives, we must work to revitalize our existing alliance and find new areas for collaboration and mutual benefit.

I was grateful to meet with the Consulate General of India in Georgia Dr. Swati V. Kulkarni earlier this month, where I reaffirmed my commitment to deepening our ties and advancing practical cooperation between our two countries in combatting COVID-19, partnering on emerging technologies and cyberspace, and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the longstanding and special relationship between the United States and India.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THAJ
KHU MOUA LIA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thaj Khu Moua Lia. Moua Lia passed away on August 14, 2021. Moua Lia was a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather as well as an inspiration for the entire Hmong community.

Moua Lia was born in Phac Lac (Nong Het), Xieng Khouang Province, Kingdom of Laos. Throughout his life, he fought to bring more education to the mountains of Laos, leading him to become the first Superintendent of Schools in Xieng Khouang Province.

After studying pedagogy, student testing and placement, special education, and ethnic group school systems in France and Thailand, Moua Lia returned to Laos and began rehabilitating Xieng Khouang Province by reforming the school systems in remote areas that had been ravaged by war. During this time, he helped establish the first institution for Hmong teachers called Samthong College.

His commitment to improving the education system for ethnic minorities in Laos took him all over the world, specifically to Singapore

and the United States, where he collected ideas and strategies for how to better approach education in the regions he served.

When Laos fell to communist army forces in 1975, Moua Lia and his family received asylum in France for 15 years. They later moved to Merced, California, where he worked as the Community Outreach Specialist in the local school district, and retired in 2005, still actively supporting the community through various projects.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Thaj Khu Moua Lia. His service and contributions to the Hmong community in the Central Valley and beyond will be missed. I join his friends, loved ones, and community in celebrating Moua Lia's life.

RECOGNIZING LEE MONTEFORTE,
GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY
SONS OF ST. PATRICK'S 2021
SWINGLE AWARD WINNER

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lee Monteforte, who will receive the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's 2021 W. Francis Swingle Award at their Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event on Friday, September 24, 2021.

Lee was born and raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Pittston Area High School and he continued his academic

career at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in education.

Lee started his professional career working as a representative for MetLife Securities and Wachovia Bank. He then transitioned into a career in marketing in the broadcast media industry, sharpening his skills in digital strategy, broadcast sales, connected TV advertising, and media buying. In 2000, he started at WOLFTV FOX 56 as a marketing consultant, and in 2006, he joined the marketing team at WNEP-TV 16.

Lee also dedicates his time to serving his community. In 2015, he served as president of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons, and he has volunteered with the Pittston City St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus John F. Kennedy Council 372 and a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus Assembly 948. He currently serves as secretary for the Pittston Knights Home Association. Seeking to encourage young athletes and to further give back to his community, Lee returned to his alma mater, Pittston Area, to coach track and field and cross country.

Lee lives in Jenkins Township with his wife, Deborah, and they are the proud parents of Justin and Jaret.

I am honored to join with the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in recognizing Lee as the recipient of the 2021 Swingle Award. May he continue to find success in his career and fulfillment in his time spent serving his community.